

was appropriate. Also tried to make it clear that not only do we offer certificates, but also registration status, and we have some concerns that registration was primarily used as a tracking device to identify those folks who are out there but who are not qualified to be certified, but on the other hand, we didn't want to imply that registration meant in any way that the state had endorsed this person's qualifications as a counselor. So that is clarifying language. The amendment also changes renewal time periods from one year to two years and allows for promulgation of rules and regulations which would define unprofessional conduct for those people who choose to be registered counselors. It, finally, allows for the enforcement provisions of the bill. That in summary is the essence of this amendment. It is largely technical clean-up kinds of language that was the intent of the bill and through the various rewrites had sort of gotten lost in the shuffle. So I think we have taken care of that point. While I have the mike, I would like to respond to questions that are relative to the social work bill that Senator Smith and Senator Labeledz raised earlier. The intent of this bill would be the same as the social work bill. This is not intended to have an effect on folks who are doing volunteer types of counseling out there. If on the other hand you do wish to be a certified professional counselor, you will need to comply with the provisions of this act. So with that I would move the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Just real briefly. Senator Scofield did a nice job, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, on this amendment. I think that it narrows the focus. There was concern about it being too broad, included too many people. A lot of exemptions are made in the bill now through this amendment, cleaner language. We worked with the Health Department, Senator Scofield and my office, to come up with the amendment. It makes it a much more palatable bill technically correct and I would ask your support for it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Scofield, do you wish to close? The question is the adoption...excuse me, go ahead if you would like.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I was just going to move the amendment.